

Fremont Conservation Commission
02-01-10 Minutes



Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of February 1, 2010
Approved March 1, 2010

Present: Chairman John (Jack) Karcz, Members Bill Knee, Janice O'Brien and Pat deBeer; and Alternate/Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Also present: Leanne Minor

Chrm. Karcz opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

MINUTES

Mbr. Knee made the motion to accept the minutes of the January 18, 2010 meeting as written.
Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with favorable vote.

MAP 2 LOT 029

13 Clough Crossing

There was a discussion relative to the property at Map 2 Lot 029 for conservation reasons. This is a 6.19 acre parcel that was formerly used for a camping area. In an e-mail string between Mbr. deBeer and Theresa Walker there was a conversation relative to the fact that the property has recently been purchased and questioned whether the new owner would be willing to subdivide the property and sell 5 acres for recreation? Mrs. Bolduc noted that the parcel is in the Aquifer Protection District as well as the Flood Zone. To subdivide this property each parcel would need a minimum of 3 acres, one of which would need to be contiguously dry; lack of road frontage would also be an issue. This, coupled with the recent \$260,000 purchase price the Members agreed that it would probably not be feasible to pursue this property for conservation purposes.

BROWNFIELDS

Mbr. deBeer said that Theresa Walker has related that there is a 50% matching grant coming up for the Brownfields program and letters of intent for Land and Water Conservation Funds are due March 31st. There was a discussion about the Brownfields project property. Mbr. O'Brien said that she understands the property is contaminated and she does not think the bond money could be used for contaminated property. She added that the property would need to be evaluated and then it would need

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to be assessed; there has been no formal appraisal completed. It was the general opinion of the Members that the cost would need to be known before any matching money could be allocated.

Chrm. Karcz reminded the others that they told the Selectmen that no Town money would be spent for the Brownfields project and if that were to change the Commission would need to go back to the Selectmen. The Members agreed that they are not interested at this time.

OPEN SPACE

There was a conversation relative to the Open Space Committee and the process of assessing properties. Commission Members voiced concern that the Open Space Committee participation is waning. There was some disappointment with the result of the Open Space Plan possibly due to the application of the process since Fremont was the first town in the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) area to use this process to create a plan.

TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM GRANT

UNH Co-operative Extension and NH Fish & Game

The Members discussed the Taking Action for Wildlife Program service grant that was awarded to Fremont as a result of the application submitted by Mbr. O'Brien.

Mbr. O'Brien said that one of the reasons Amanda Stone and Frank Mitchell, of the Land & Water Conservation Division of the UNH Cooperative Extension, chose to award Fremont the Taking Action for Service Grant (through UNH Cooperative Extension and NH Fish & Game) was that we had already met with Sandown and Chester (Danville was invited, too, but they did not attend) and may be interested in a regional project. Mbr. O'Brien said her initial interest was for inventory and monitor of wildlife species.

Chrm. Karcz asked if Fremont is interested in doing a regional project versus a project with just Fremont. The Members collectively agreed that either way is fine with them.

Chrm. Karcz stated that Sandown Conservation Commission Member Mark Traeger has asked the other towns if they are interested in additional Regional Meetings with Frank Mitchell to learn about Wildlife Action Plans.

The Members discussed a recent e-mail string between Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Traeger in which Mr. Mitchell outlined assistance that would be offered to 1) communities (initially Fremont, Danville, Chester and Sandown) interested in participating in the Taking Action for Wildlife Program as a regional project; And 2) just the Fremont Conservation Commission if other towns are not interested. Mr. Traeger acknowledged that "Fremont is driving this, but it looks like it would make sense to learn and act regionally." Mr. Traeger suggested to Mr. Mitchell getting Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) involved to have some zoning as a result of the program. Mbr. O'Brien said her initial interest was inventory and monitor wildlife species and it was not to create a zoning ordinance. She also noted some confusion about the apparent steering by Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Traeger when the service grant was awarded to Fremont.

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Mbr. Knee said that it would make more sense to know what the project is before agreeing with a regional approach. The Members agreed with Mbr. Knee. The Members also agreed with Mbr.

O'Brien that the reason for applying for this service grant was to obtain assistance in inventorying and monitoring wildlife species, conduct conservation projects to conserve critical wildlife habitat and to prepare and present educational materials for the public about the value of existing habitat and the Fremont Conservation Commission has no interest in creating a zoning ordinance as a result of the Taking Action for Wildlife Program grant applied for and awarded to Fremont. Mbr. O'Brien will relate this to Frank Mitchell and Amanda Stone.

A tentative date of March 31, 2010 was agreed upon for the Taking Action for Wildlife meeting, pending access to the Town Hall for the meeting.

TRAILS – Glen Oakes

Chrm. Karcz related that the trail sign needs to be moved onto the Town property.

OAK RIDGE

Mbr. O'Brien related that she spoke with Surveyor Tom Brouillette relative to the Oak Ridge survey, as per the last meeting. In answer to her questions Mr. Brouillette related that:

- He will mail a full size copy of the plan to the Land Use Office.
- Iron rods set at the proposed locations (points on line) are \$65 per rod; \$95 for granite. The rods are inexpensive but the cost is primarily for traversing where use of the instrument is required.
- Existing corners replaced with granite bounds- \$68 per corner since traversing and use of the survey instrument would not be required because we would be replacing an existing monument and not establishing a new location for a monument.
- There is an iron rod at the southwest corner next to the road which is flagged and blazed.

ERLAC

Mbr. deBeer said there was a meeting this week and reported the following:

Sally Soule of NHDES, who is the coordinator of the Exeter River Fluvial geomorphology study, gave a project update. Her goals were to present information about the implementation of projects identified in the first part of the study, to give a status update on the Brentwood-Fremont study conducted this past summer, and to give general updates about the study.

Raymond has a warrant article pending for a Fluvial Erosion Hazard Zoning Ordinance. The ordinance's primary objective is public safety. It can be accessed at the Town of Raymond website. It will be the first in the state and is a direct outcome of the Fluvial Geomorphology Study.

A new fluvial geomorphology scientist has been hired by NH DES to coordinate and participate in similar studies throughout the state. Having this process in tact will enable more rivers to be on the impaired water list. This list flags these rivers as needing improvement. Projects will be proposed to improve the impairments identified and these projects will be implemented to the fullest extent possible.

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Exeter is planning to do buffer outreach, buffer plantings, and stormwater implementation where improvement is needed. The data collected for the Middle Exeter study (Fremont and Brentwood) is in the process of being analyzed for quality control and a draft for review will be available at the end of

March. A public meeting to present the results to Fremont and Brentwood will be held in late April or early May.

One of the recommendations of the study will be corridor protection to the fullest extent possible for reaches without development. The Exeter River Campground was mentioned as a possibility for conservation. PREP has provided \$16,000 of funding to do a similar study in the Great Brook Watershed which includes East Kingston, Kensington, Kingston and Brentwood.

Theresa Walker announced that CTAP money is available to CTAP towns to start up an Agriculture Commission. - Mbr. deBeer submitted a notice stating that grant funds are available to establish Agriculture Commissions or support a local Agricultural Commission for the 26 municipalities in the I-93 region. The notice instructed anyone interested to contact your local planning agency for more information.

The Commission received the 2010 ERLAC dues invoice in the amount of \$150.00. Mbr. O'Brien made the motion that the invoice be paid from the ERLAC dues line in the current budget. The motion was seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

NATURAL RESOURCE PUBLICATION

The Commission received the summary of the questionnaire that was sent out to get feedback on the Natural Resource newspaper publication. The summary stated that the publication was delivered on December 10, 2009 to 1507 housing units. On December 18, 2009 a questionnaire was mailed. 47 were returned for a 3.1% response.

Mbr. deBeer stated that PREP is willing to fund a flyer for any conservation ballot ordinance. It was determined that there are no ordinances that would require a flyer this year.

VERNAL POOL STUDY AND MAPPING

Mrs. Bolduc said she contacted Mark West and he said that he would use the 2005 Leaf-off color aerial photo map as a base map for the final Vernal Pool Study.

PLANNING BOARD NOTICES AND COMMENT SHEETS

The Board has received a notice of a January 26, 2010 Planning Board Public Hearing for a Site Plan Review for Costas & Sharon Tonas, Map 6 Lot 019, 117 Shirkin Road, to be allowed to continue to operate their existing cordwood operation from their residence. The Members had no comment.

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RANKIN, EMMA

Map 6 Lot 001

Mr. Knee inquired about the results of the Zoning Board of Adjustment Special Exception from Fremont Zoning Article IX Section H sought by Emma J. Rankin for Map 6 Lot 001, 522 Beede Hill Road, for clearing and alteration of the land that has taken place within the one hundred (100') foot Watershed Protection Area of a wetland; Prime Wetland #14. Mrs. Bolduc stated that at the January

26, 2010 continuation of the Public Hearing the ZBA voted to further continue it to 7:30 pm on March 30, 2010 to allow additional time for; 1) the applicant to file for a Major Project Standard Dredge and Fill application with the NH Department of Environmental Services; and 2) for the Members to consider the Special Exception conditions as they pertain to the case.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests 2010 membership renewal invoice in the amount of \$50.00. Mbr. O'Brien made the motion that the dues be paid from the dues and membership line of the current budget. Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 15, 2010, but it is a holiday so the Members agreed to skip it and make the next meeting for March 1, 2010. The Chairman will call a meeting if a need arises.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to adjourn at 9:15 pm.

Motion seconded by Mbr. Knee with unanimous favorable vote.

Meredith Bolduc

Land Use AA/Recording Secretary